

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MILAN 02147 171121Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MILAN 2147

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: MILAN COMMUNIONE AND LIBERAZIONE LEADER ON ITS STATUS

1. ANDREA BORRUSO, HEAD OF DC GROUP IN MILAN CITY COUNCIL AND ONE OF C&L NATIONAL LEADERS MADE FOLLOWING POINTS DURING NOVEMBER 10 DISCUSSION IN MILAN.

2. C&L IS CURRENTLY RIDING A WAVE OF SUCCESSES. BORRUSO HAD JUST RETURNED FROM SESTRI LEVANTE WHERE C&L HAD PACKED THE LOCAL THEATRE AND PICKED UP SOME 600 NEW MEMBERS WHICH BORRUSO SAID WAS SIGNIFICANT IN A TOWN OF THE SIZE OF SESTRI. YOUTH AND YOUNG WORKERS ARE FLOCKING TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT FROM EVERY QUARTER. HE RAN DOWN A LIST OF

COMPANIES-MONTEDISON, PUBLIC AGENCIES ETC. WHERE C&L CHAPTERS OF 200-500 MEMBERS ARE FORMING. HE MENTIONED CISL LEADERS WHO ARE CLOSE TO C&L AND EVE NOTED THAT SOME 40 PARISH PRIEST HAVE JOINED UP.

3. C&L IS IN FACT CONCERNED THAT IT IS GROWING TOO FAST AND THAT THE NEW MEMBERS WILL NOT HAVE THE DEDICATION OF THOSE ALREADY IN THE MOVEMENT. SEVERAL DEPUTIES HAVE BEEN COURTING C&L, BUT BORRUSO SAYS THEIR SELF-INTEREST WAS EVIDENT. SIMILARLY THE PCI HAS MADE TWO OR THREE ATTEMPTS TO PENETRATE THE LEADERSHIP OF C&L BUT THESE EFFORTS

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 MILAN 02147 171121Z

WERE OBVIOUS AND EASILY COUNTERED.

4. C&L IS RUN BY NINE PEOPLE WHO DO ALL THE ORGANIZATIONAL WORK. WHILE THIS IS AN ENORMOUS LOAD FOR THESE MEN, IT DOES MEAN THE DIRECTION OF THE MOVEMENT IS FLEXIBLE AND COMPACT. APART FROM BORRUSO AND DON GIUSSANI, THE LEADERS ARE THIRD ORDER BENEDICTINES, I.E. LAYMEN WHO HAVE TAKEN VOWS OF CHASTITY, OBEDIENCE AND POVERTY. (THIS IS ALONG THE SAME LINES OF OPUS DEI TO WHICH SEVERAL OBSERVERS HERE HAVE LIKENED TO C&L.) THESE MEN ARE PAID A SALARY OF AROUND 100,000)8

43

PER MONTH. BORRUSO, WHO NOW HAS ONLY HIS TOKEN PAY AS A MEMBER OF THE CITY COUNCIL, IS ALSO SUPPORTED BY C&L. ALL MEMBERS OF C&L GIVE A PERCENTAGE OF THEIR WAGES TO THE MOVEMENT (BORRUSO MENTIONED 10-30) AND IT IS THESE FUNDS THAT MAKE UP THE TOTAL FUNDS OF THE ORGANIZATION.

WHETHER BORRUSO IS NOW GETTING THE 450,000LIRE PER MONTH HE STATES HE RECEIVED AS VICE MAYOR OF MILAN WAS NOT DISCUSSED.

5. C&L IS ORGANIZED TO A LARGE DEGREE ALONG THE LINES OF THE PROTO-CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY WHICH IT EMULATES. EACH PARISH IS HEADED BY A DEACON. THERE IS THEN A PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF DEACONS, A DIOCESAN DECONATE AND A REGIONAL DECONATE. ALL ISSUES ARE DECIDED BY VOTE OF THE COMMUNITY. FOR EXAMPLE, PRIOR TO THE UNIVERSITY ELECTIONS LAST SPRING IT WAS VOTED THAT ALL OF THE C&L UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THOSE GRADUATING WOULD NOT TAKE THEIR EXAMS SO THAT THEY COULD CAMPAIGN. HAD THE COMMUNITY NOT EXCEPTED THOSE GRADUATING, THEY WOULD HAVE HAD THE CHOICE OF SKIPPING THE EXAMS OR LEAVING THE MOVEMENT. C&L IS NOW EXPANDING BEYOND ITS TRADITIONAL SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY BASE AND IS ORGANIZED IN THE FOLLOWING DIVISIONS:

CLS-SCHOOLS  
CLU-UNIVERSITIES  
CLL-WORKERS (KLAVORATORI)

WHILE THE FIRST TWO REMAIN WITHIN THE TRADITIONAL PATTERN THE THIRD IS BASED ON C&L UNIVERSITY GRADUATES WHO HAVE MOVED INTO INDUSTRY. BORRUSO CLAIMS THAT WHILE C&L HAS NEVER BEEN ACTIVE IN FACTORY OR LABOR AFFAIRS, MEMBERS OF THE WORKING CLASSES ARE ATTRACTED TO THE MOVEMENT PARTICULARLY IN THE BRIANZA NORTH OF MILAN.

6. C&L IS NOW ACTIVE IN THE SCHOOLS PARTICULARLY AMONG THE 16-17  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MILAN 02147 171121Z

YEAR OLDS. PREVIOUSLY THIS GROUP WAS TOO RADICALIZED TO ACCEPT C&L. NOW IT IS THE 13-14 YEAR OLDS WHO SHOW LITTLE RECEPTIVITY TO THE MOVEMENT. C&L HAD A SIGNIFICANT PRESENCE IN ALL OF THE POLITICAL ZONES OF MILAN AND PARTICULAR STRENGTH IN TWO. (SHOULD THE ZONE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS TAKE PLACE IN MILAN THEY WILL PROVIDE AN INDEX OF C&L'S STRENGTH SINCE ONE OF THE AREAS IN WHICH BORRUSO STATES THEY ARE IN PARTICULARLY GOOD POSITION IS GENERALLY THOUGHT TO BE PCI DOMINATED.)

7. BORRUSO SAYS THAT 3000 INSCRIPTIONS IN THE MILAN DC WOULD GIVE THEM CONTROL OF THE PROVINCIAL PARTY ORGANIZATION. HE DISCOUNTED THE CORRIERE DELLA SERA ARTICLE WHICH STATED THAT GINO COLOMBO AND VITTO RING COLOMBO WERE JOINING FORCES WITH THE C&L (NOV 9) BUT SAID C&L CAPABLE OF AMASSING THE 3,000 INSCRIPTION AND IS CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF TRYING TO GAIN CONTROL OF THE MILAN PARTY ORGANIZATION. (SEE NOVEMBER 20 ISSUE OF PANORAMA.) OUR GUESS IS THAT THIS EFFORT WILL DEPEND UPON THE SUCCESS OF THE MUP CAMPAIGN (SEE SEPTTEL).

8. MONEY REMAINS THE KEY QUESTION AT THIS POINT. BORRUSO REPEATED THAT THE MOVEMENT IS COMPLETELY FINANCED BY THE DONATIONS OF ITS MEMBERS BUT THAT THE TIME WHEN A BOY OR GIRL CAN ASK HIS PARENTS FOR MONEY FOR A BICYCLE AND THEN GIVE THE MONEY TO C&L IS DRAWING TO A CLOSE. C&L'S STAFFERS ARE PAID LITTLE MORE THAN SUBSISTENCE AND THE KIDS WORK ON FAITH. STILL, THE MOVEMENT CANNOT EXPAND MUCH BEYOND ITS PRESENT LEVEL WITHOUT OUTSIDE FUNDING.

9. COMMENT: VARIOUS MILAN POLITICIANS AND RELIGIOUS FIGURES SAY BORRUSSO IS MEDIOCRE, AND IN A LAND OF THE LIVELY INTELLIGENCE AND TH E ARTICULATE HE IS VERY STOLID AND HEAVY GOING. ONE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT AT TIMES HIS SAINTLY CONDESCENSION MAY BE A BLIND FOR INCOMPRE-

HENSION. ALTHOUGH HE EATS SPARINGLY AND GIVES THE IMPRESSION OF BEING ASCETIC, HE ENJOYS A GOOD DOLLOP OF SCOTCH AFTER LUNCH.FINA

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